

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A node activation method, comprising:

~~determining whether one or more other nodes that may become active are coupled to the node;~~

reading an identifier from a shared storage node to determine an identified node, wherein the identifier is associated with a chassis management module node;

activating the identified node if the identifier indicates that the identified node was previously active;

if the identified node was not previously active, then selecting one of the a plurality of nodes and the other nodes as initially active based on an address of the one of the plurality of nodes if the node and the other nodes are not indicated by the identifier read from the shared storage node;

writing an identifier, ~~associated with the one of the plurality of nodes, of the node to the shared storage node if the one of the plurality of nodes node and the other nodes are~~ is not indicated by the identifier read from the shared storage node;

rewriting the identifier of the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ to the shared storage node periodically if the identified node is initially active; and

selecting the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ as active if the identifier of the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ remains in the shared storage node after a predetermined period of time and a last active node has not informed the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ that ~~it~~ the last active node was is active within the predetermined period of time.

10. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein a hardware device external to the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ determines the presence of network nodes and reports present network nodes to the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein re-writing the identifier of the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ to the shared storage node occurs after re-reading the identifier from the shared storage node and when the identifier from the shared storage node is not the identifier of the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, further comprising communicating with the plurality of nodes ~~one or more other nodes~~ that could become active and are coupled to the identified node and selecting an active node from among the plurality of ~~node~~ and the other nodes based on prior activity ~~prior to~~ of the ~~active~~ node and ~~one or more other nodes that could become active last being de-energized.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of nodes ~~node and the other nodes~~ are coupled to a common network.

14. (Original) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the identifier is a globally unique identifier.

15. (Original) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the identifier is a system unique identifier.

16. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node and the other nodes that is~~ selected as initially active is ~~the one of the~~ a node ~~and the other nodes~~ having a lowest identifier value.

17. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node and the other nodes that is~~ selected as initially active is ~~the one of the~~ a node ~~and the other nodes~~ having a highest identifier value.

18. – 30. (Cancelled)